Turning Point USA recognized as on-campus organization

By Marie Salazar
Editor-In-Chief

The Director of Student Life, Lauren Tyler, approved Turning Point USA's appeal to be recognized as an on-campus organization during the Student Senate meeting on Oct. 19.

TPUSA continued on Page 3

Photo by Chris Swann

The DrumBeat

Tyler Junior College's independent student media since 1927

October 22 - November 4, 2021

Vol. 90 - Issue 5

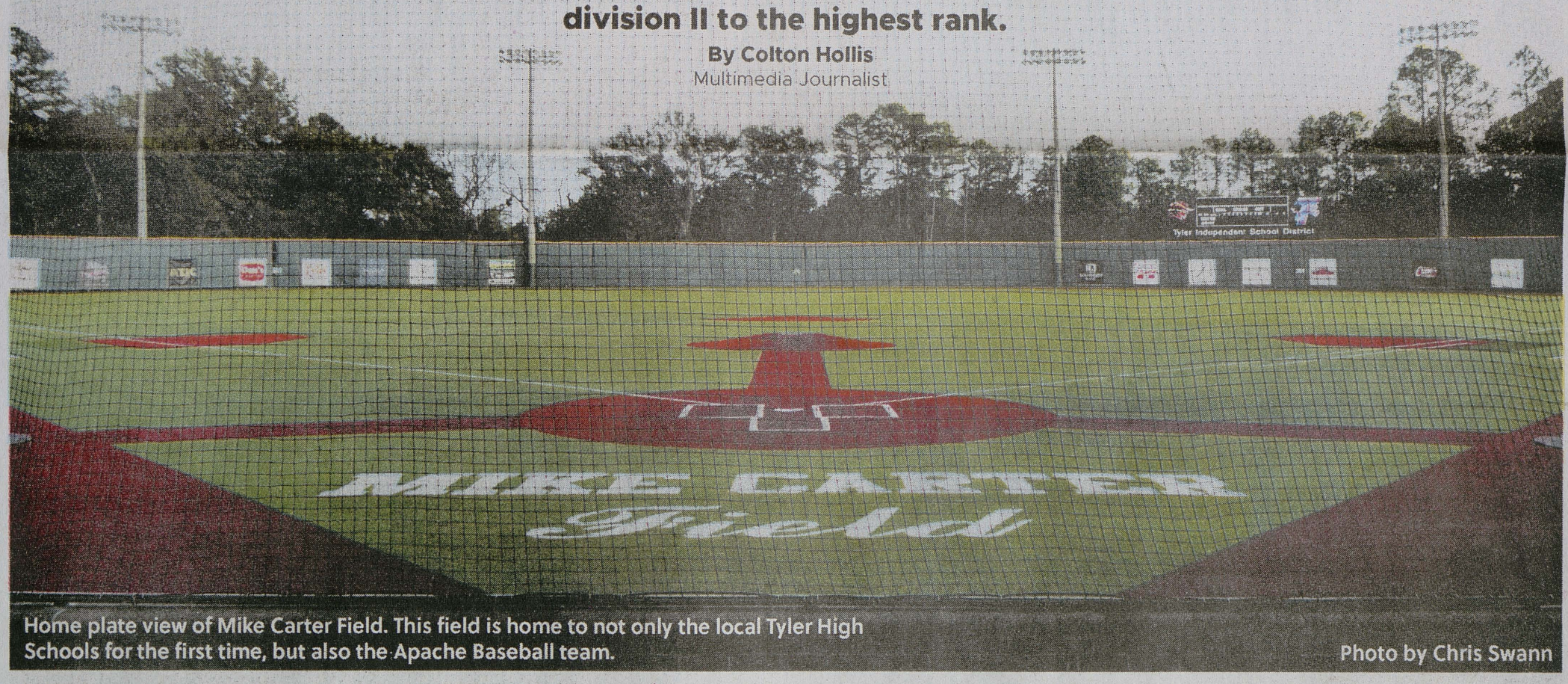
Día de los Muertos
Page 6

Smash Bros.
Page 7

BASEBALL SWINGS TO DIVISION I

After a strong year of play, despite COVID, the Apache baseball team skips division II to the highest rank.

By Colton Hollis
Multimedia Journalist



Home plate view of Mike Carter Field. This field is home to not only the local Tyler High Schools for the first time, but also the Apache Baseball team.

Photo by Chris Swann

After dominating at the Division III level of the National Junior College Athletic Association's competition, the Tyler Junior College Apache baseball team will be moving up to Division I.

"I think our program is well prepared to make this transition," Athletic Director Kevin Vest said. "We have consistently fielded teams that have had tremendous talent."

Among other things, this change affects scholarships for student athletes. According to the NJCAA, at the Division III level "colleges are not permitted to offer any athletic scholarships. While at the Division I level colleges may grant full athletic scholarships (tuition, books, fees, room and board), up to $250 in course required supplies, and transportation costs one time per academic year to and from the college by direct route. Each sport has limits on the number of scholarships that can be granted." TJC completely skipped Division II competition, meaning it can offer more money in scholarships and will face tougher competition faster.

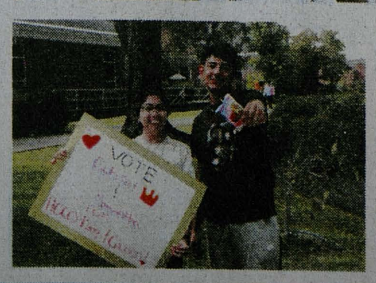
"Last year, we were scheduled into the Region XIV Conference as a COVID consideration. We finished second in the Eastern Division," Vest said. "Coach Wren has always operated his program as Division I program in virtually every sense except the scholarships."

The TJC baseball program has won six championships in Division III play while being the runner-up twice. Four of those titles were won in a run from 2014 to 2018. However, the opponent's skill level will be much higher as compared to Division I and II, but a move to Division II for the Apaches was improbable.

"Division II was not really an option because of the makeup of Region XIV and Texas junior college baseball," Vest said. "We were previously one of two Division III schools in our region, and there are no Division II baseball programs in the State of Texas. Therefore, in an effort to align with other baseball playing schools in our region and the state, Division I was the right place for us to be."

Baseball continued on Page 3

FROM VIRTUAL TO REALITY
TJC Homecoming 2021



Photos by Connor Mason, Joe Gaona, and Brooklyn Gundling

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News 3
Opinions 5
Student Life 6
Entertainment 8

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Breast Cancer Awareness Month: Learn how to detect the warning signs early on

By Marie Salazar
Editor-In-Chief

Breast Cancer Awareness Month is an annual movement created to bring awareness and show support for those affected by breast cancer. This movement provides an opportunity for individuals to learn more about this deadly disease that affects both men and women.

According to breastcancer.org, "In 2021, an estimated 281,550 new cases of invasive breast cancer are expected to be diagnosed in women in the U.S., along with 49,290 new cases of non-invasive (in situ) breast cancer. About 2,650 new cases of invasive breast cancer are expected to be diagnosed in men in 2021."

There are seven common types of breast cancer, including Ductal carcinoma in situ, Invasive Ductal Carcinoma, Lobular Carcinoma In Situ, Invasive Lobular Cancer, Triple Negative Breast Cancer, Inflammatory Breast Cancer and Metastatic Breast Cancer. Each type varies regarding symptoms and severity.

According to 2021 statistics from the National Breast Cancer Coalition, breast cancer affects 1 out of 8 women.
Graphic by Chris Swann

One of the most recommended steps to take to detect breast cancer early on is preforming self-examinations. Breastcancer.org states, "Breast self-exam, or regularly examining your breasts on your own, can be an important way to find a breast cancer early, when it's more likely to be treated successfully."

Ronna Best, nurse navigator at the Ross Breast Center at CHRISTUS Trinity Mother Frances, discusses the age individuals should begin self-examining.

"Women need to start doing self breast examinations starting about age 20. And that way, they know what changes could prompt a physical exam," Best said. "What's involved in a breast exam, not only to feel of the tissue, but you also look for changes on the skin and the nipple."

Best recommends performing a self-exam monthly.

"Theoretically, what we'd like to say is, we want it to be the same time every month, and toward the end of her menstrual period," Best said. "That is the best time to do self-exams, especially for younger women."

Signs to look for when doing a self-exam include, "a change in the breast tissue, if there's a change in the appearance of the skin, if there's dimpling, if there's a change in the color, if there's a rash or a sore that doesn't heal, if there's discharge, either clear discharge or even bloody discharge from the nipple," Best said.

According to healthline.com, "If breast cancer spreads to other parts of the body, it may cause symptoms in those particular areas, too. Affected areas may include the liver, lungs, muscles, bones and brain.

Cassandra Linthicum, sophomore at TJC, discusses the toll breast cancer has had on one of her mom's coworkers.

"I have not had any personal interactions with breast cancer, but my mom has at her previous job. One of her coworkers had gotten breast cancer last year and had to go through rounds of chemo after her surgery to remove the rest of the cancer cells," Linthicum said. "This caused her to have no energy nor could she really teach anything to the kids. Her immune system proceeded to become very weak as well."

Similar to other cancers, breast cancer can affect anyone. "Breast cancer can happen at any age. We've had patients in early 20s with breast cancer, and we have patients, I think the oldest diagnosis is over 100-101. I mean, it can happen at any time," Best said.

Breast cancer awareness month not only helps individuals learn more about the deadly disease but also provides a month full of opportunities to raise funds for breast cancer research.

Caroline Phillips, freshman at TJC, discusses the importance of breast cancer awareness month.

"I never personally had breast cancer myself, but growing up as a teacher's kid, I always saw overwhelming support from teachers donating toward the cause. Plus, many of them would run marathons or do fun runs for awareness," Phillips said. "I am thankful even now to exist in a community where this issue is being discussed because even 30 to 40 years ago it would have been a more taboo topic. This is saving lives."

Breast cancer awareness is imperative in the effort to identify the signs earlier on.
Photo by Marie Salazar

STEP 1: APPLY AT TJC.EDU/CHIEFS

STEP 2: CHECK YOUR TJC EMAIL

STEP 3: COMPLETE PART 2 OF YOUR APPLICATION

APPLICATIONS DUE
NOVEMBER 4TH

IT'S NOT TOO LATE

TJC hosts events in celebration of math month in November

By Asia Johnson
Managing Editor

In support of math month this November, the math department is hosting a calculator drive beginning on the first of November.

Math professors, Dr. Polly Schulle and Jenelle Reynolds, will lead this event.

"We take all calculators like TI (Texas instruments), Casio, all kinds, graphing or not-graphing. We want to have a surplus of calculators to use in our tutoring centers and some professors let the students use the calculators during the semester," Reynolds said.

The drive, named "Calculators Count," has four drop-off areas which include: Pirtle Technology Center, Room 220; Jenkins Hall, Room 1108; the TRiO room on the third floor of Rogers Student Center; and Potter Hall, Room 105.

The drive will take place Nov. 1-18. Any and all calculators will be accepted.

"Calculators Count" isn't the only isn't the only way students can participate in math month this year. There are several events hosted on campus to encourage critical thinking among the student body.

The Logic Puzzle Competition will be each Monday starting Oct. 25 through Nov. 15.

Math Department Chair Chris Chappa said, "A new logic puzzle will be made available to students, faculty, and staff. They will be posted at bulletin boards around campus. Faculty will also be able to distribute puzzles to the students. Participants will send solutions to ccha@tjc.edu by noon each Friday."

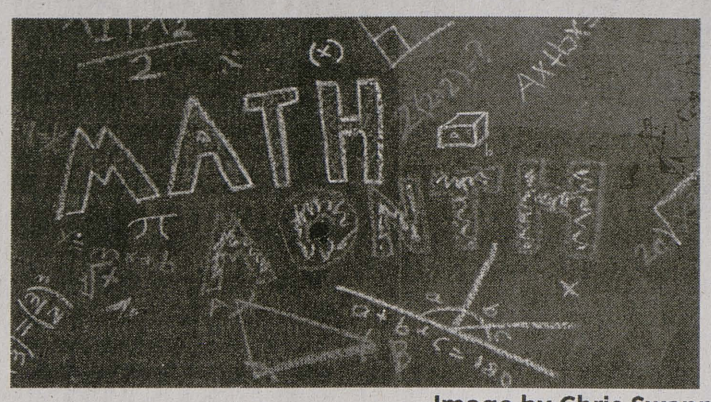

Image by Chris Swann

Math month begins in November. To celebrate, the math department will be collecting calculators.

Each week participants will be entered in a drawing for a $25 restaurant gift card. Afterward, students will be placed in a drawing for a bigger prize, which is to be determined.

Guest speaker Monte Floyd Hancock Jr. will be presenting from 6-7 p.m. Nov. 4. This event is open to students from different colleges and high schools in the community.

"The presenter describes for the lay-person audience interesting cases from 40 years of innovative mathematical modeling of human and artificial intelligences. Behavior modeling of human and robotic agents is depicted through images and animations in hyperspace," Chappa said.

Snacks will be provided prior to the presentation. Location is to be determined.

The "Math Madness" event will be held on Nov. 10 for arithmetic and algebra and Nov. 11 for calculus. Registration is from 5:30-6:30 p.m. and the competition portion will be from 6-8:30 p.m.

"Students will compete in a preliminary event," Chappa said. "The top 16 students will then be ranked 1st through 16th. In the finals, students will compete head-to-head, one problem at a time, in single-elimination fashion, similar to the NCAA March Madness basketball playoffs. All students who make it to the semifinals and finals will win prizes. The winner of each event is guaranteed to win at least $100 cash."

Refreshments will be provided to all participants.

From 6-8:30 p.m. Nov. 16 and from noon-1 p.m. Nov. 19, students are invited to enjoy tacos and play games with their peers and TJC faculty during the "Let's Taco 'Bout Math Games Week." The location will be rooms 107, 109, and 111 in Potter on Tuesday and room 109 on Thursday.

For more information contact Chappa at ccha@tjc.edu.

DrumBeat broadcast wins national award in spite of pandemic, small staff

By Chris Swann
Design and Photo Editor

TJC's DrumBeat Student Media has been recognized with the national Pacemaker award along with two Pinnacle awards. In September, 7 programs across the nation, along with The DrumBeat, were nominated for the Pacemaker award. The nominees consisted of both two-year and four-year universities. The winners were announced Oct. 14.

"The prestigious Pacemaker recognizes overall excellence and distinguishes the top student media produced during a particular school year," according to the Associated Collegiate Press. "The award started shortly after the association was founded in 1921 and is often regarded as the most-competitive, most-honored award in collegiate journalism."

The DrumBeat also placed 2nd in both the Two-Year Radio Station and Two-Year TV Station categories.

The submissions for both the Pacemaker and Pinnacle awards were from the fall and spring 2020 semesters.

Despite COVID-19, The DrumBeat continued broadcasting news via livestream to the TJC community with Andi Valdez as Broadcast News Director and lead anchor.

"COVID really affected our numbers for our participation," Valdez said, "So it was very difficult to recruit a lot of people to get involved with broadcast. And so it was basically me for a couple of broadcasts."

Valdez was the only on-camera staff member for The DrumBeat Broadcast. She continued, "as we went on, we picked a couple people up, which was great. But those first couple of broadcasts were, they were learning experiences. And so, you know, I just felt very proud, because it really meant that all of that hard work that we put into that broadcast really paid off in the end."

During the fall, broadcast only consisted of two staff members: Valdez and Dallana Estrada. While Valdez was in front of the camera, Estrada would assist Valdez with stories and most of the behind-the-scenes workload.

"Because there were two of us, we had to split the workload at times, and sometimes when one of us wasn't able to get video, the other one had to step in and grab that video," Valdez said.

Participation was one of the biggest hurdles for the year, Valdez said. "If you look at the numbers last year and then compare them with the numbers this year, there's a lot more participation this year, which is really good," she said. "It's definitely one thing that we wish we would have had last year. But you know, unfortunately, that wasn't the case. But we overcame it, and I mean, it definitely paid off in the end."

Student media adviser and communications professor Adrienne Hampton played a large role in the production and felt grateful for the recognition of the students' hard work.

"Our department strives to provide the knowledge, support and hands-on experience that will prepare our students for success in today's highly competitive media job market," Hampton said.

Among Valdez, staff members for The DrumBeat Broadcast included Dallana Estrada, Kierra Robinson, Dalon Jones, Charles Houston. Faculty advisers are Derik Grey, Adrienne Hampton and Kasi Dickerson.

TPUSA: Students divided on final decision

From Page 1

This decision comes after weeks of debate that led to the group being initially denied in a 10-9 vote on Oct. 12.

"Due to the closeness of the vote last week and the board policy, I have chosen to recognize Turning Point USA as a recognized organization," Tyler said.

TJC's student handbook states the rules of the recognition process as, "If denied, an organization may appeal the decision to the Director of Student Life."

Samantha McGrew, Student Senate executive president, discusses the appeal process. "In the current student handbook, there is not a number on how many times an organization can appeal. The student handbook does not have a time frame for the appeal process," McGrew said.

According to tpusa.com, "TPUSA is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization whose mission is to identify, educate, train, and organize students to promote freedom."

Juliana Penney, chapter president of TPUSA, shared her reaction to the organization being recognized.

"We are so thankful to the TJC Office of Student Life for considering our appeal and making the decision to allow Turning Point USA to exist as an official on-campus organization," Penney said. "We can't wait to contribute to the tapestry of ideas at TJC, hopefully expand our organization even more, and create a positive impact on campus."

Many mentioned how the concerns about TPUSA revolve around how the organization is founded on hatred and is homophobic/racist. Others in opposition expressed concerns regarding the organization's founders and reputation of the organization.

Regarding the approval, Timothy Wright, representative for Las Mascaras and one of the individuals who spoke against the recognition of TPUSA during the senate meeting on Oct.12, said "I think that what the students wanted should have been taken into consideration."

Joseph Ritter, representative for Phi Rho Pi Speech and Debate Team, said he was not surprised by the outcome, but is proud the opinions of those in opposition were voiced.

"I also understand why Mrs. Tyler made her decision, and I hope that this group will prove me and my close peers wrong," Ritter said. "Also, although I do not agree in the slightest with what Turning Point's views are, I applaud them on their persistence and the work they did to get approved. It will be interesting to see how this affects the campus atmosphere moving forward, especially in the next 2-3 years."

Tyler said she considered many aspects when making her final decision on the appeal, including the vote, re-watching the meeting, the board policy, the student handbook and the students' right to have a voice. TJC's board policy manual states student organizations cannot be denied based on views expressed by the organization. However, can be denied if they "violate campus rules, interrupt classes, substantially interfere with the opportunity of other students to obtain an education, or if it is reasonable to believe that the group poses a substantial threat of material disruption to the campus."

For more coverage on this issue, visit the thedrumbeat.com.

Baseball: Schedule delayed for division change

From page 1

This move will take place immediately with TJC's spring schedule being postponed to make the proper changes.

"I'm beyond grateful for the opportunity to lead this program into this new era," said baseball Head Coach Doug Wren. "Our program has been extremely blessed since making the move to Division III back in 2003, but we are extremely excited about the new opportunities ahead as we return to Division I status."

Dr. Jon Groth is the former baseball coach and currently works as the school's broadcaster for the webcasts of the game. He brought the program back in 1992, after it had existed for about half a decade in the 60s and 70s. He was head coach until 2009 when Wren took over. During Groth's tenure, the TJC Apaches moved to Division III.

"When I was hired in 1992," Groth stated. "TJC baseball was part of the NJCAA Region 14-East Zone, fully Division I status."
One of the aforementioned Division III championships was won under Groth.

TJC Baseball will take place in spring 2022 with the schedule currently pending.

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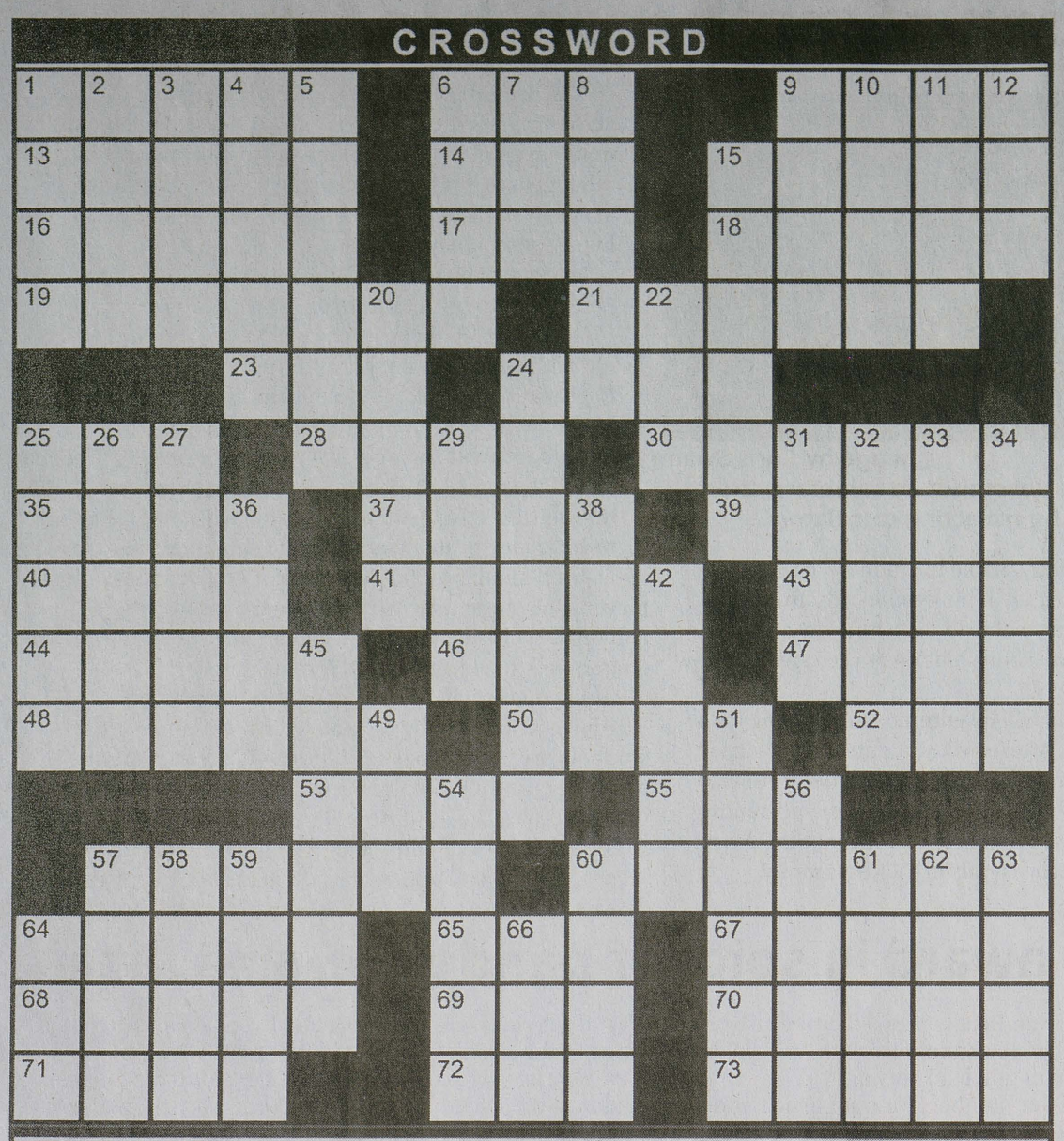

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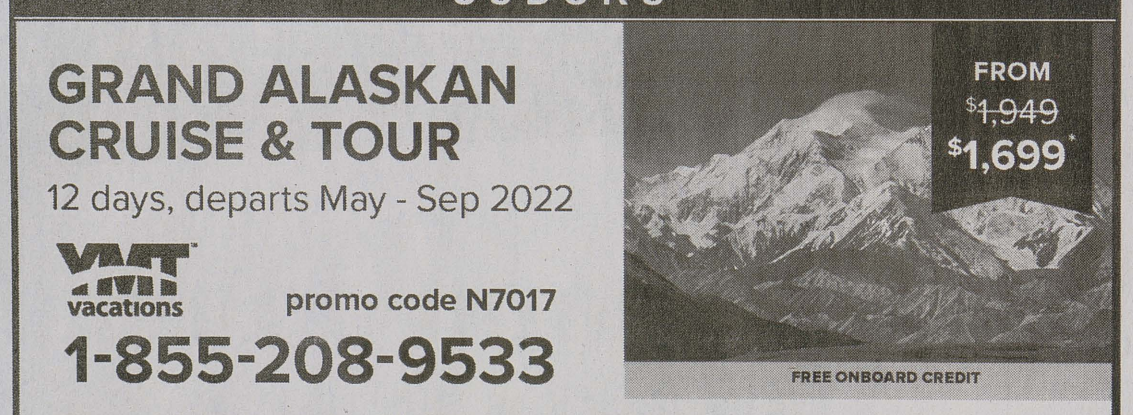

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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

THEME: SCARY MOVIES

ACROSS

1. Shenanigan
6. "Losing My Religion" band
9. Kind of learning
13. Capital of Egypt
14. Nest egg acronym
15. Cupid's target
16. Bar, legally
17. Indian restaurant staple
18. Kind of committee, two words
19. *Hedge maze, dull boy, redrum, with The
21. *Pretend girlfriend, surgery, body parts
23. Monkey ____, monkey do
24. Post-it message
25. It makes a guitar louder
28. Royal Indian
30. Perfumes
35. Glorify
37. Freeway exit
39. Like today's cell phones?
40. Keen on
41. Like a confection
43. At any time
44. One of the large keys on the right
46. Greek portico
47. Common workday start
48. Former President of Egypt
50. Ancient eternal life symbol
52. *Bathtub, hacksaws, Jigsaw
53. Euphemism for "darn"
55. *Blind violinist, transplant surgery, sees ghosts, with The
57. *Hotel, mother, shower
60. *Count, bite, cross
64. Hot winter drink
65. Aye's opposite
67. Financial benefactor
68. Seize a throne
69. Headquartered in Langley
70. Exclude or omit
71. Done on a Smith Corona
72. Old age, archaic
73. 6666...

DOWN

1. Single pip cards
2. Crosby, Stills, ____ & Young
3. South American monkey
4. Actor Jeremy
5. Xerox machine
6. *Videotape, stone well, seven days, with The
7. Paleozoic one
8. Tropical smoothie flavor
9. Make over
10. Hawaiian island
11. Ragtime turkey dance
12. And so on, abbr.
15. Bias crime perpetrators
20. Closes in on
22. Pilot's announcement, acr.
24. ID badge, two words
25. *Sigourney Weaver, outer space
26. Old Testament miracle food
27. Hits while on the green
29. *Beachgoers, police chief, need for bigger boat
31. *Boy, shadows in photographs, three sixes, with The
32. "Transylvania" daughter
33. Entertainment complex
34. Scatter
36. "Nobody ___ It Better"
38. Low-ranking worker
42. One who accepts the offer
45. Porter's head gear
49. U Rah ___!
51. Seven daughters of Atlas
54. Present
56. Food-borne bacteria
57. One in a pocketful, according to Mother Goose
58. Fish a.k.a. porgy
59. Bygone era
60. Two of a kind
61. Type of operating system
62. Prospector's mother?
63. God of war, son of Zeus
64. Director's cry
66. Be ill

Crossword and Sudoku solutions will be online at thedrumbeat.com.

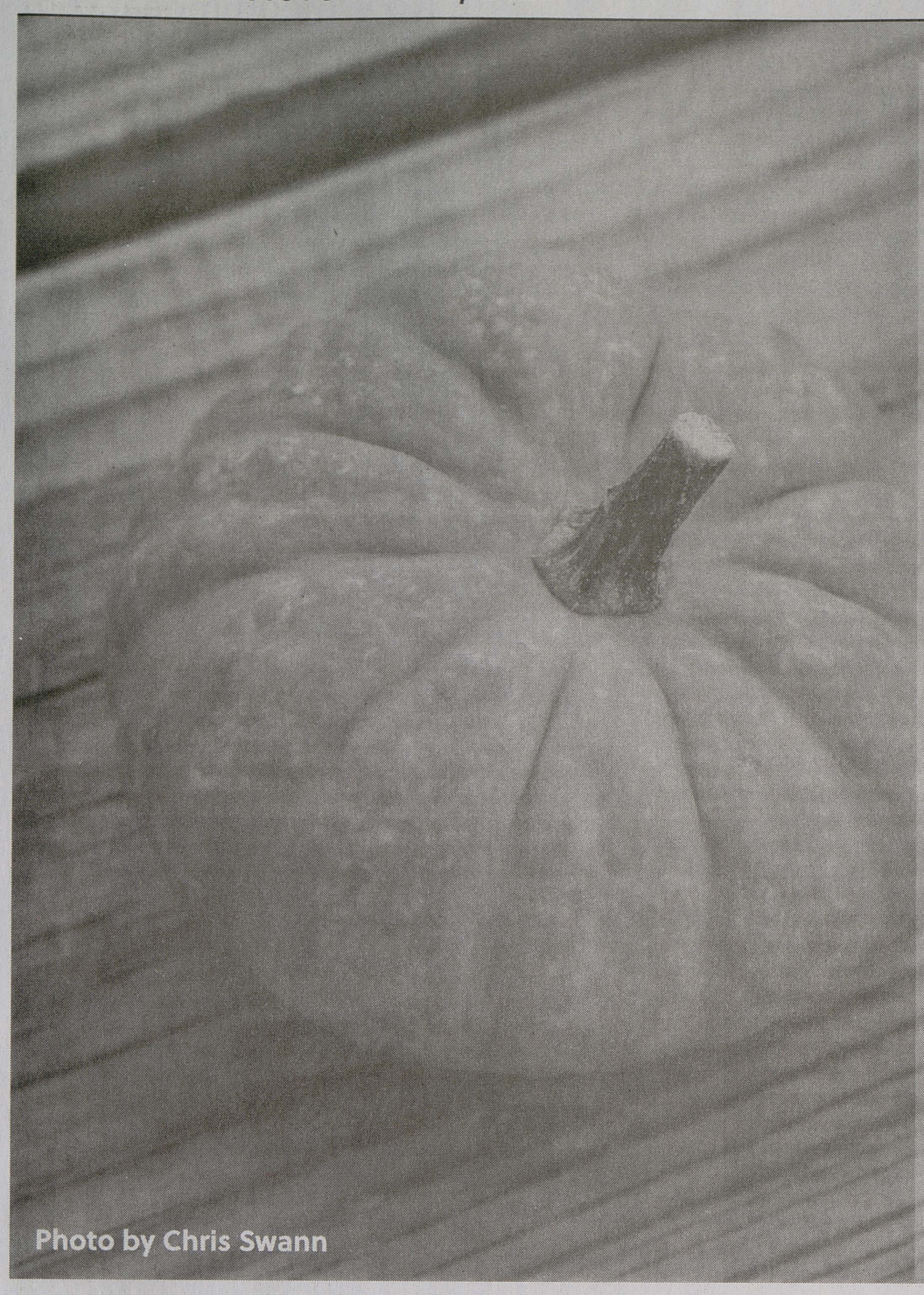


Photo by Chris Swann

Contradicting society's limits on adult trick-or-treating

Asia Johnson
Managing Editor

With Halloween around the corner, many people are anticipating the main event of most American children's childhood: trick-or-treating. So what happens when one grows up and is no longer a child? Society shuns the idea of adult trick-or-treating because it's "too weird" or "too childish," but when did dressing up for candy gain an age limit?

A poll was conducted to reveal what TJC students thought on the subject. With a 50 count vote, the majority said adults should be able to trick-or-treat. Some students expressed nostalgia of childhood memories from Halloween time.

Psychology major Caiden McClure said, "I think adults should trick or treat because, especially young adults, still feel like a kid and want to experience happiness that they did when they were younger."

As an adult, one has a different perspective on things than they did as a kid, some of those things being what is deemed as "fun." With dressing up and going door to door for candy being an activity seen for children, partaking as an adult may not carry the same enjoyment for some. But some may believe it could still bring jollification.

Band member Caroline Phillips said, "Trick or treating can still be fun for adults for many reasons. For example, people of all ages love candy. Plus if you're like me, I enjoy seeing the fruits of my labor from the amount of work I put into piecing together my costumes."

While some support adult participation in certain Halloween events, others seem to think differently.

University of Texas at Tyler Nursing major Precious Henry said, "Leave that [trick or treating] to the kids. Throw a spooky themed party instead."

It's believed it is OK for adults to celebrate Halloween, but in a more mature way. Adults are expected to "grow out of" their childhood and engage in more grownup hobbies.

Some gave insight on how society can break away from the mindset of kids only being allowed to trick or treat.

"To break the mindset, you just have to understand that not only kids are free-spirited," McClure said. "Even adults are young at heart."

I believe adults should be able to trick or treat. As a young adult, I would like to have the freedom to dress up with friends and have a fun night on Halloween, even if it's just getting candy.

Texas abortion ban jeopardizes bodily autonomy

Column and Graphic by Brooklyn Gundling
Copy Editor

Senate Bill 8 went into effect at the beginning of September of this year, restricting access to abortions in Texas after cardiac activity, or a heartbeat, is detected. This can be as early as six-weeks, generally before the pregnancy even makes itself known. With that restriction comes the ability for private citizens to sue those who receive or aid in the process of terminating the pregnancy, no matter how far along they are. The lawsuit aspect of SB 8 is a scare tactic the state is using to make people afraid to get abortions and effectively ends abortions in the state of Texas without putting the responsibility on the state.

The Senate Bill has bounced from court to court, most recently SB 8 was suspended by U.S. District Judge Pitman who called it an "unprecedented and transparent statutory scheme," by the state in his 113-page decision.

On Oct. 8, just two days after Pitman's suspension, the U.S. Court of Appeals sided with the state and lifted said suspension, reinstating what is vernacularly called "The Heartbeat Act" in Texas. Abortion providers who had made appointments during the suspension, rushed to cancel any who did not fall in that six-week allowance period.

"This is a major loss for Texas patients and abortion providers, who have navigated the law's devastating effects on abortion access for over a month now," said Planned Parenthood President Alexis McGill Johnson in a statement. "The Fifth Circuit has again disregarded half a century of precedent upholding the constitutional right to abortion." One reason this ban has been criticized so heavily is because of the precedent it sets for bodily, or personal, autonomy.

"From the moment SB 8 went into effect, women have been unlawfully prevented from exercising control over their lives in ways that are protected by the Constitution," Pitman wrote.

Bodily autonomy is defined as the right each person has to control what they do with their body. Several court cases have challenged the idea of bodily autonomy, such as Griswold v. Connecticut, McFall v. Shimp, and of course, Roe v. Wade. In each case, the Supreme Court ruled that while personal autonomy is not a fundamental right, the Constitution gives its citizens the right to make decisions about their own bodies.

In the same way you cannot be required to donate blood or organs, you should not be required to carry a pregnancy to full term. The fetus inside of you is considered a parasite at that point. It needs you to live. But if you do not want to donate your body to it, you don't have to.

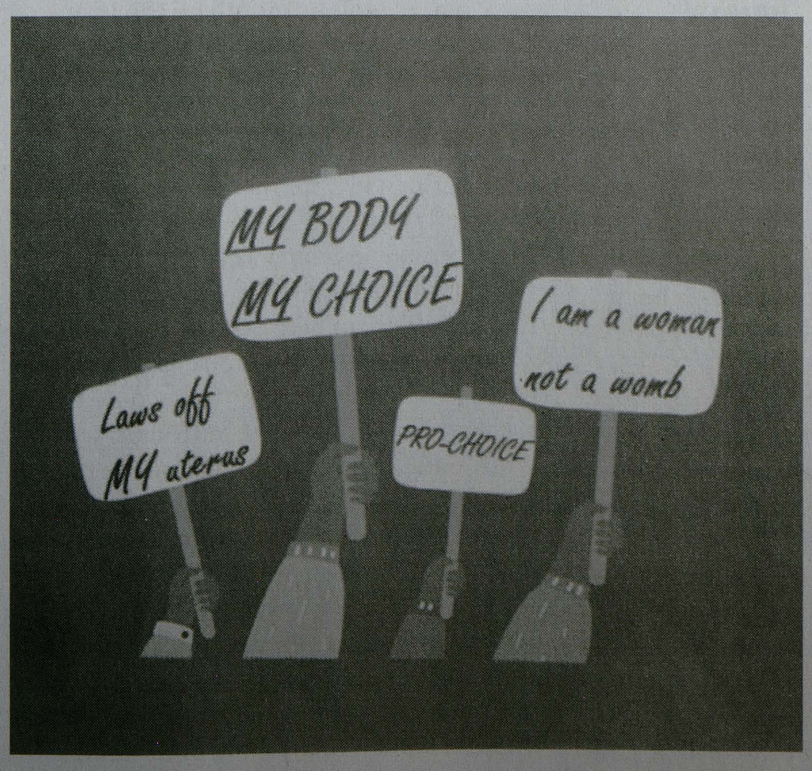
Say you get in a bad car crash. You and the other driver get rushed to the hospital for your injuries. You were fortunate enough to have minimal injuries, but the doctors tell you the other driver needs one of your kidneys to live. If you refuse to give consent, the hospital is not allowed to perform the medical procedure without your permission, even if it could save a life.

Even worse, the driver is on life support. You wake up hooked up to them as their life support. The doctors say they will die if you don't let them use you to stay alive. It's only for nine months after all, and it was your fault for getting in the car. You know that driving leads to crashes. If you say that you do not want this patient to use your body to stay alive, that you want to be able to get back to your life fully as quickly as possible, does that make you a murderer? Did your decision to practice your bodily autonomy make you a killer? Even though the driver could not live without you, no one can compel you to keep them alive, especially if it causes undue harm to you.

In the same way, a fetus would die without your body to keep it alive. But if it causes undue emotional, mental, or physical harm to you, no one should compel you to carry it to term.

It's remarkable that the only law in America calling personal autonomy into question is such a controversial topic. There are no massive protests for "do not resuscitate" orders, or senate meetings when a family decides to end the life support for one of their own. The question I have is simple: is a woman's body where we draw the line? A law regarding the medical decisions for a uterus-owner should not be made by those who don't own one. The whole point of democracy in America is the idea that those governing will be subjected to the same laws as those being governed. But that may just be a utopian fantasy at this point.

One brief shining light is the Department of Justice, who released a statement announcing their plan to take this decision all the way to the Supreme Court. But that could take months or even years before it even arrives at the court's doorsteps. If you agree the government should not be making medical decisions for its citizens, reach out to your representatives and let them know. Repost on social media. Talk to your friends and family about this issue. In this age of information it is so much easier to make people aware of the issues you care about, so get involved, stay connected and make your voice heard!



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- Editors reserve the right to deny publication of any letter.

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Celebrating with the dead on Día de los Muertos

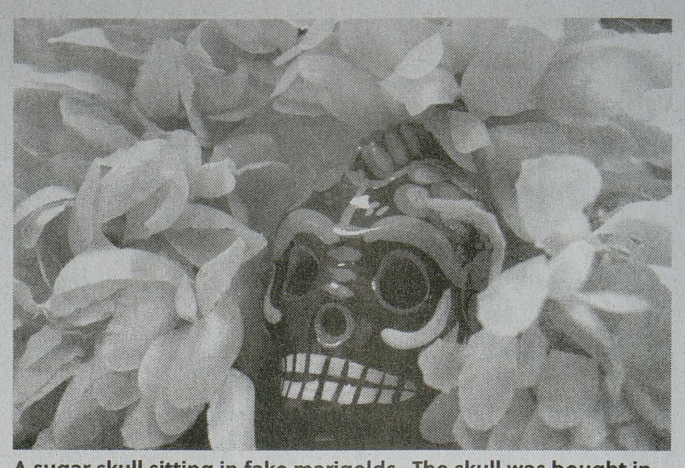
By Nicki Tijerina
Multimedia Journalist

Día de los Muertos or Day of the Dead is a Latin Amercan holiday honoring the dead and is celebrated from Nov. 1 to Nov. 2. Professor Stephen Stine, a history professor at TJC, said, "Day of the Dead is a very optimistic celebration, it's not meant to be sad or scary but a fun holiday to celebrate.

Día de los Muertos celebrates the dead and sees death as another part of life. Juanita Garciagodoy's book "Digging the Days of the Dead", says people "are not forgotten or excluded from recollections, prayers, or holidays because they are no longer visible,"

To the people of Latin America, sadness and mourning are insulting to the dead on Día de los Muertos, according to Professor Stine, rather than celebrating the life they lived and acting as if death has separated them completely. National Geographic says, "On Día los de Muertos, the dead are also a part of the community, awakened from their eternal sleep to share celebrations with their loved ones."

In the weeks leading up to the holiday, merchants sell goods for the offerings of the dead to go on "ofrendas," such as yellow and white candles, brown tallow, fruits and vegetables that are in season, and copal, an incense used



A sugar skull sitting in fake marigolds. The skull was bought in Mexico City. Photo by Marie Salazar

in spiritual cleansing and clearing. The Day of the Dead holiday site, a website that gathers information from professors and writes on the subject, says, "The lower portion of the ofrenda is where the offerings are placed. The food will be placed here."

An ofrenda is an important tradition when celebrating Día de los Muertos as it is where offerings are left. An ofrenda or altar is set up on tables with two levels. The top level is adorned with a colorful table cloth, photos and belongings of the deceased, candles, marigolds. Candles on the second lower level showcase offerings such as the deceased's favorite foods, calaveritas de azúcar or sugar skulls, and traditional Latin American foods. The Day of the Dead holiday website says, "It is important to note that none of the items have a particular significance in and of themselves in general."

During the Día de los Muertos celebration, the living get their fill, as well. In Mexico City, they host a parade for everyone to enjoy. In this parade, one will see large skeleton puppets, traditional dances, people dressed as alebrijes, which are mythical spirit guides, catrinas, as well as moving ofrendas.

Professor Stine said, "This holiday is when the veil between the living and the dead is thinnest so that it allows the dead to cross over and be with the living, so they have picnics at the graves of the deceased and celebrate them being together even in spirit."

Dia de los Muertos is a lively, fun and exciting Latin American holiday meant to celebrate the lives the departed lived and to once again be united with their spirit.

HTeaO readies brews for Tyler locals and TJC students

By Asia Johnson
Managing Editor

TJC's new neighboring business, HTeaO, has officially opened for business. The grand opening for HTeaO was Sept. 24 with immediate success.

With the new iced tea franchise within close range of the campus, HTeaO attracts many students and locals throughout the day.

Owner and Operator Tonya Clark said, "I think the school brings a lot to us. Students come over between classes, I mean, it's walking distance. I think this street is a great area to be. We're getting a lot of support from the college and from local businesses. The neighborhoods here are just excited for something new."

Business has proved HTeaO to be an anomaly. Clark believes this is a direct effect of the campus being close by.

"Usually the drive-thru is busier than the in-store traffic, but right now our in-store traffic is more than our drive-thru, and I attribute that to being within walking distance of TJC," Clark said.

Store hours for May-Aug. are 7 a.m.-9:05 p.m. Monday-Friday; 8 a.m.-9:05 p.m. Saturday; and 11 a.m.-9:05 p.m. Sunday. Closing time for the remaining months is 8:05 p.m. Happy hour lasts from 2-4 p.m. daily, raking in lots of customers during this time for deals.

"Happy hour is pretty poppin' here," Clark said. "Cups are half price from the small, medium, large, to the huge. The deal that we have going on right now is our grand opening special, which is $2.99 per gallon."

So what makes HTeaO different from any store-bought tea? The secret is in the process of how the teas are made.

"So they're brewed fresh in house every day. It's just fresh brewed tea, and the flavors are brewed in the tea. — here in house, fresh everyday with no preservatives and no added anything," Clark said.

With 26 different flavors to choose from, a select few teas such as blueberry, blueberry green, coconut, and Georgia peach have already gained popularity from consumers.

Mini containers of citrus fruit for tea add-ins are available, for free, as well as cups of other fruit options being 75 cents. Snacks and fruit cups are also available for purchase as an on-the-go refreshment.

HTeaO offers an app that provides consumers with an opportunity to order ahead and earn rewards through points or "drips."

"It's really easy to download. You get a free large tea just for downloading the app and then you just hit earn or redeem and we record them in drips.

HTeaO offers a variety of teas in take-home containers. Photo by Conner Mason

HTeaO Tyler sits on the corner of South Baxter Street and East 5th Street. They're open 7 a.m.-9:05 p.m. Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.-9:05 p.m. Saturday, and 11 a.m.-9:05 p.m. Sunday. Photo by Conner Mason

For every dollar spent you get two drips," Clark said.

To receive these drips, one is to scan the barcode at the bottom of the given receipt so the app can record how much was spent for the calculation of points.

Some TJC students express their positive feedback toward the store's warm ambience.

"The atmosphere was very welcoming," said Freshman Khiara Smith. "I was greeted with a smile and everyone working seemed so nice. It's a nice environment."

HTeaO says their goal is to give back to the community, allowing all first responders in uniform to drink for free.

"We try to give back to the community," Clark said. "If you're having a bad day, you come in and you see a smiling face. And it's kind of like you're walking into a party. We're having a party in here. And even if it's just a cup of tea, I mean it's not just a cup of tea, just coming in and having a breath of fresh air and little while in your day."

Creating costumes on a budget this spooky season

Don't let budget scare you from making a costume. Affordable ideas include a vampire, witch, doll and zombie.

Graphic by Chris Swann

By Nicki Tijerina
Multimedia Journalist

With Halloween around the corner, everyone is looking for the right costume to properly celebrate this exciting holiday with friends, but being young, broke, and in college can make finding a costume difficult. There are plenty of fun, cheap costumes out there. Here are some ideas for costuming on a budget.

Zombie: Zombie costumes are quite easy and the most fun to make. All it takes is some old clothes you can get from a thrift store or even clothes you don't wear any more. Once you have the outfit you'd like to be caught dead in, just tear or cut it up and splatter some fake blood on it as well as add brown eyeshadow under your eyes for an extra effect.

Puppet: Puppet costumes are one of the easiest costumes out there. To create this look, all you have to do is put on a nice outfit and draw two black lines from the corners of your mouth all the way down your chin. For an added touch, you can draw red dots on your cheeks and the tip of your nose.

Witch: Witch costumes can be put together in a few moments. All that's required is an all black outfit and a pointy hat. Accessories, such as a broom or a wand (which can just be a long stick off the ground), can help sell the costume.

Vampire: Being a vampire is an easy costume to put together. To become this creature, put on a white button up with black pants, and drip fake blood or red food coloring from the corners of your mouth down your chin. For a touch of dramatics, you can add a cheap cape, gold jewelry or fangs from a costume store.

These costumes are very cheap and can be made with basic material found around your house. They can be very fun to make and can be personalized to your liking.

UNLOCK ULTIMATE DLC WITH SORA

By Chris Crymes
Entertainment Editor

To call the roster for Nintendo's premiere fighting game, "Super Smash Bros. Ultimate," impressively deep would be an understatement. Ultimate kicked off the globe-shattering excitement for the game by announcing, "Everyone is here," in the games early promo materials. Meaning, Ultimate somehow managed to include every character previously introduced in a Smash game, leading to a base game roster of 69 characters, if you don't include the Mii fighters and echo fighters (which are straight up clones of their already established counterparts).

Smash Ultimate has been a giant success, becoming the Nintendo Switch's third highest selling game. Namely, just shy of 25 million units sold as of the company's June 30 sales analysis. Despite a terrible online multiplayer system, the game has managed to stay relevant in the competitive gaming scene and has remained in nigh-constant word of mouth. The big reason for this is Ultimate's downloadable content "Fighter Passes," which deepen the game's character roster even further. These two DLC packs now are coming to a close with Ultimate's final character: Kingdom Hearts' Sora. So, here's a look back at all the new fighters lead designer, Masahiro Sakurai, and his team have brought us.

PIRANHA PLANT

While not the best character in the vast roster, to most in the competitive scene they're among the worst, Piranha Plant's inclusion is one of the most out-there picks Ultimate brought. Released Feb. 1, 2019, the "Super Mario" series representative offered a heavyweight with more a trap and anti-air moveset than your typical heavy, but not a deep enough toolkit to be viable at anything above a local.

Graphics property of Nintendo

JOKER

No, not Batman's arch nemesis. Hailing from the fifth entry of the JRPG series, "Persona," Joker quickly stole the coveted best character spot when he surprised fans with his inclusion April 17, 2019. The turn-based RPG protagonist boasts some of the fastest, most versatile, moves in the game and a comeback mechanic that will save even the worst players from an embarrassing loss. Even after two full waves of DLC and multiple competitive seasons, it seems no character will dethrone Joker from the top spot.

HERO

Sakurai wasn't satisfied with one turn-based RPG character, though. On July 30, 2019, the nameless protagonists from the "Dragon Quest" franchise journeyed their way into the game as one character: Hero. At his release, many bannered for banning the character from tournaments for his strong attacks' 1/8th of a chance of a critical hit and a move with a chance at simply taking an opposing player's life on landing. But, as time passed, cooler heads prevailed as the community found the character is roughly as viable as any other high-tier character.

BANJO-KAZOOIE

My personal favorite reveal in the roster. Alongside base-roster's inclusion of "Metroid" series' villain, Ridley, this was a legacy character feared to never make it to the series. Coming from the adventure series of the same name, the duo fighter boasts a general moveset with a heavy weight. Nothing too crazy, just some rock-solid moves for a heavy without many of the drawbacks the class often carries. This could be disappointing for some, but those of us who lost hope are happy enough the 90s bear and bird finally made it.

By the time you'll be reading this Sora will be available for purchase as the final DLC character, bringing Smash Ultimate's legendary expansion to a close. With this finale in mind, it's important to recognize this game isn't solely made by Sakurai, despite online posts thanking only the lead designer for the game. Games are huge undertakings, with whole teams hundreds of people deep that go completely unnoticed despite years of hard work. Super Smash Bros. Ultimate's team is so numerous, they made the credits into a shooting gallery to pass the time. Whether you're a designer, programmer, copy/code writer, play tester, or anything else, my hat is off to you. Smash Ultimate is truly a celebration of video game history, and Sora brings that through line home.

TERRY BOGART

Fighting game characters weren't represented much in Super Smash Bros. until Ultimate. Sure, the previous installment for the Wii U eventually brought Ryu from Street Fighter, but that was it. As a celebration of gaming as a whole, Ultimate made up for this when they hit everyone by surprise with the inclusion of the King of Fighters' own: Terry Bogart. A combo character that automatically turns toward his opponent, Terry offers a variety of combo strings reminiscent of his home games. He also brings his own comeback mechanic with his "Go meter," which grants Terry two extra insanely powerful move options after taking 100% damage, making him a force to be reckoned with in competent hands.

KAZUYA MISHIMA

As of the time of writing this article, Kazuya of the "Tekken" series is the latest useable fighter in Smash Ultimate, released June 29, 2021. Another character from a long-running fighting game series, Kazuya keeps his compatriots' ability to automatically turn toward his opponent, but Mishima-san stands apart from fighters similar to him with a deep move list that utilizes specific control stick positions/directions like his home series, which is a nice touch. He also hits so much harder than other fighting game characters, while still having the ability to combo unsuspecting opponents. Kazuya holds the scary ability to completely wipe an opponent's stock just from one mistake, but his mediocre recovery and slow moves somewhat even him out.

PYRA/MYTHRA (AEGIS)

This swappable dual fighter comes from the RPG series "Xenoblade Chronicles." Here is another character immediately recognized as one of the best of the game practically as soon as they became available March 4, 2021. Both of the characters' wildly different movesets are some of the best in the game, utilizing both a "rushdown" moveset focusing on fast, personal combos and a baffling strong heavyweight that ensures you're always at kill percent. Now that offline tournaments are back, there is a sea of new Pyra/Mythra players worldwide. If you want to attend tournaments soon, learn this matchup.

STEVE

The internet and I have cooled off on the inclusion of a "Minecraft" representative since their Oct. 13, 2020 inclusion. Steve (and his skin options of Alex, a zombie, and an "enderman") have an incredibly unique kit that do a great job of incorporating the home game's mechanics. This is also a character with a steep learning curve, leading to the character mostly falling out of the competitive scene, but the vast possibilities of his moveset leave the opportunity for someone to unlock their true potential.

MIN MIN

The "Arms" ramen inspired fighter kicked off the second Fighter Pass July 29, 2020. Another mid to long distance fighter, Min Min is one of the strongest zoners (distance fighters) in the game. With impressive pressure ability and the ability to switch certain attacks on the fly, the unique fighter can be a great choice if willing to overcome her learning curve.

BYLETH

Next, we have the resident snooze for many when they dropped Jan. 28, 2020. Byleth sought to remedy complaints of too much "Fire Emblem" representation with a moveset that departs from the rest of the series' sword fighters as one of Ultimate's few true midrange fighters. They excel at keeping opponents at a distance, and the world's top Ultimate player, MKLeo, has been on an absolute tear with the character, breathing some new life into a character many wrote off as too slow to be viable.

SEPHIROTH

A truly out of nowhere pick is "Final Fantasy VII's" main antagonist, Sephiroth. Easily the most unique sword fighter so far, the one-winged angel boasts his own comeback mechanic, long-range attacks, but a weight so light he's not incredibly viable. This, combined with his reliance on long range, leaves him in a tough spot if an opponent closes the distance. Much like MKLeo's usage of Byleth, top player, Tweek, has shown off an impressive understanding of the character since his Dec. 22, 2020 inclusion.

HALLOWEEN HAUNTS
Editors' frightening favorites

The crisp, brown leaves are finally hitting the ground, and Halloween is near. The fuzzy blankets are being ripped from the closets, and the popcorn is popping. People around the world are sitting down to enjoy their favorite Halloween/horror films. With that being said, here are The DrumBeat's editors' picks for their favorite Halloween tinged horror movies.

"As Above, So Below"

Marie Salazar
Editor-In-Chief

Spooky meter: 🎃 🎃 🎃 🎃

My favorite horror movie is undoubtedly "As Above, So Below." This paranormal documentary style movie provides us with a realistic experience based in the catacombs below Paris. Though the plot may be confusing for some, it is one of the few movies that keeps me engaged throughout the entire film.

You can stream this film on Amazon Prime Video, Apple TV and Vudu.

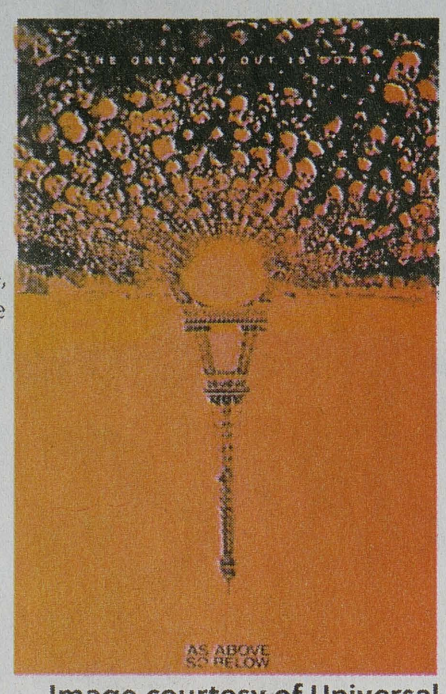


Image courtesy of Universal

Image courtesy of Paramount

"Psycho"

Brooklyn Gundling
Copy Editor

Spooky meter: 🎃 🎃 🎃

The only scary movie I've really gotten into was "Psycho." This twisted drama takes you through the life of a young man under the control of his mother. This movie features the most iconic shower death scene in movie history. While there's not a lot of jump scares, the mystery of it all and the dark cinematography kept me engaged right up until the reveal at the end. I'm not one for scary movies, but I genuinely enjoyed every minute of it.

You can stream this film on Amazon Prime Video, Peacock, Vudu and Apple TV.

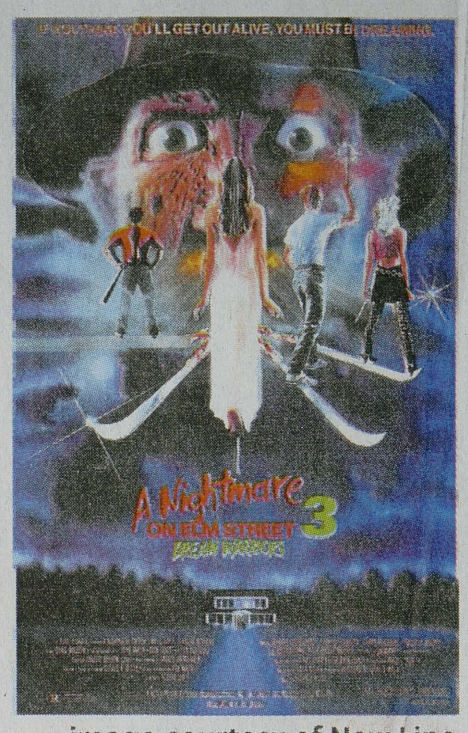


image courtesy of New Line Cinema

"Nightmare on Elm Street 3: The Dream Warriors"

Chris Crymes
Entertainment Editor

Spooky meter: 🎃 🎃 🎃

This is one of my favorite scary movies to watch with friends because this is the point in the Elm Street series where it fully goes off the rails. The original is a straightforward, creative enough horror movie, and the sequel still takes itself a little seriously, but not "Dream Warriors." With kills so wild they become comedy and a soundtrack and theme song by 80s hair metal band Dokken, this movie is pure, unadulterated insanity. Freddy Krueger is a god in control of seemingly anything, as long as you're dreaming. My personal favorite moment is when he literally turns into a TV to take down a vain, pageant-obsessed teenager. If this hilarious brand of crazy is up your alley, go grab yourself a DVD pack of Elm Street movies and jump into the crazy ones like "The Dream Warriors!"

You can stream this film on HBO Max, Hulu, Peacock, Amazon Prime Video, Apple TV and Vudu.

"Midsommar"

Chris Swann
Design and Photo Editor

Spooky meter: 🎃 🎃 🎃

While some may debate over the horror genre label given to this movie, I'd say "Midsommar" is my favorite Halloween movie. Whether you'd call it horror or just a psychological thriller, this movie definitely gives you those weird jitters that might make you a bit uncomfortable in your seat.

My favorite kinds of movies are the weird ones that make no sense upon first viewing, but after digging deeper, has more meaning than originally thought. The editing in this movie, along with the genius music, keeps you on the edge the entire time. It may not include the typical jump-scares that horror has been stapled with, but I prefer the type that messes with your head and leaves you absolutely confused if not, a little disgusted. "Midsommar" is just that kind of movie.

You can stream this film on Amazon Prime Video, Apple TV and Vudu.

Image courtesy of A24

"Hocus Pocus"

Asia Johnson
Managing Editor

Spooky meter: 🎃

My favorite Halloween movie is "Hocus Pocus." With many great classics to choose from, I chose "Hocus Pocus" because it brings me to a place of nostalgia from when I was first introduced to the film in my childhood. The Sanderson sisters create the general mysterious yet comical tone, a combination of my two favorite genres! Overall, this movie is extremely iconic, which makes me love it so much.

You can stream this film on Disney +, Amazon Prime Video, Apple TV and Vudu.

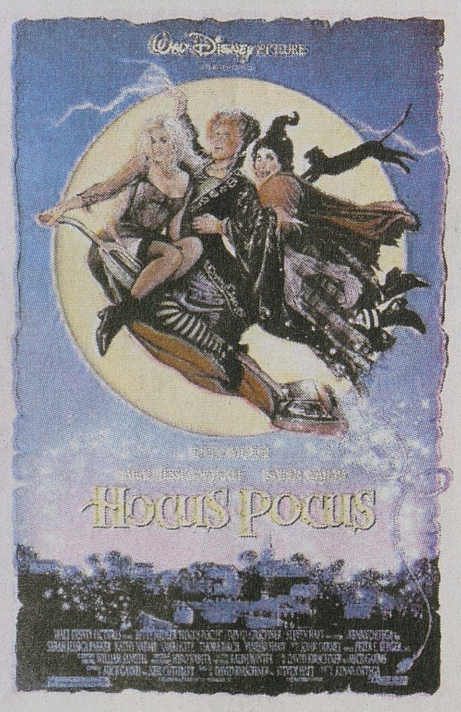


Image courtesy of Disney

Image courtesy of Warner Bros.

"Trick 'r Treat"

Nicki Tijerina
Student Life Editor

Spooky meter: 🎃 🎃 🎃

My favorite is "Trick 'r Treat." I love how all of the different stories are told, and it's a comical rendition of classic Halloween themes. You can tell by the way it's directed that it's one of those movies that doesn't take itself too seriously. There is no deeper meaning than just a collection of satirical Halloween classics and traditions.

You can stream this film on Amazon Prime Video, Apple TV, Vudu, HBO Max, Hulu, YouTube and YouTube TV.

"Ghostface" property of Wes Craven and Dimension

"Scream" Franchise

Connor Mason
Online Editor

Spooky meter: 🎃 🎃 🎃

My favorite is "Scream" (all of them). I like them because they have jump scares, but they're not really scary. "Scream" feels like it can happen in reality at any time, as people lose their minds and do crazy things. Some of my favorite horror movies are the ones that could actually happen to someone; it makes it much more intriguing.

You can stream this film on YouTube TV, Apple TV and Vudu.

igda
international game developers association academic chapter

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Contact: Caroline Dougherty
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